

median household income of the area to be served, description of project, and nature of emergency that caused the problem(s) being addressed by the project. The documentation must clearly show that the applicant has had a significant decline in the quantity and/or quality of potable water or an acute shortage of potable water and the proposed project will eliminate the problem. For projects to be funded in accordance with § 1778.11(a), evidence must be furnished that a significant decline in quantity or quality occurred within two years of filing the application with the Agency.

(c) The processing office should assist the applicant in application assembly and processing.

(d) Appropriate application review and approval procedures outlined in subpart B of part 1780 of this chapter.

(e) Each application for assistance will be carefully reviewed in accordance with the priorities established in § 1778.7. A priority rating will be assigned to each application by the State Program Official.

(f) When the National Office has allocated funds to the State for a project, applicable provisions outlined in subpart B of part 1780 of this chapter will be followed in preparation of the grant docket. This would include development of an operating budget showing that the applicant can meet all its obligations and provide the intended services.

(g) When favorable action will not be taken on an application, the applicant will be notified in writing by the State Program Official of the reasons why the request was not favorably considered. Notification to the applicant will state that a review of this decision by the Agency may be requested by the applicant in accordance with 7 CFR part 11.

(h) State Program Officials are authorized to approve grants made in accordance with this part and RUS Staff Instruction 1780-1.

(i) Funds will be obligated and approval announcement made in accordance with the provisions of subpart B of part 1780 of this chapter.

§ 1778.22 Planning development and procurement.

Planning development and procurement for grants made under this part will be in accordance with subpart C of part 1780 of this chapter. A certification should be obtained from the State agency or the Environmental Protection Agency if the State does not have primacy, stating that the proposed improvements will be in compliance with requirements of the SDWA.

§ 1778.23 Grant closing and disbursement of funds.

(a) Grants will be closed in accordance with § 1780.45 of this chapter.

(b) RUS Bulletin 1780-12, "Water or Waste Grant Agreement," will be executed by all applicants. State Program Officials are authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Agency.

(c) The grant will be considered closed on the date RUS Bulletin 1780-12 is signed by the Agency. The Finance Office will be notified of the grant closing date. The Agency will retain the original of the Grant Agreement.

(d) The Agency's policy is not to disburse grant funds from the Treasury until they are actually needed by the applicant. Grant funds will be disbursed by using multiple advances.

§§ 1778.24–1778.30 [Reserved]

§ 1778.31 Performing development.

(a) Applicable provisions of subpart C of part 1780 of this chapter will be followed in performing development for grants made under this part.

(b) After filing an application in accordance with § 1778.21 and when immediate action is necessary, the State Program Official may concur in an applicant's request to proceed with construction before funds are obligated provided the RUS environmental requirements are complied with. The applicant must be advised in writing that:

(1) Any authorization to proceed or any concurrence in bid awards, contract concurrence, or other project development activity, is not a commitment by the Agency to provide grant funds under this part.

(2) The Agency is not liable for any debt incurred by the applicant in the